

Government and Business Efforts to Meet Emergency

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believed that there was never a better opportunity of acquiring land than the present. The price now would not be frenzied nor speculative, but would be a reasonable figure based on original costs. The purchase price, together with the cost of clearing, would be the charge to the settler, with payments to be made on terms.

Mr. W. H. Hayward, M. P. P., spoke of the excessive cost of living and of the fruit problem in British Columbia. Mr. F. W. Behnsen, M. P. P., spoke briefly, striking the patriotic note.

Mr. Campbell Sweeny endorsed all that the Premier had said. He said that we were face to face with an extraordinary situation, but there was no necessity for any drastic or unusual measures. He thought the plan suggested, of finding work for the people by adhering to the original programmes of work, and keeping matters in as normal a condition as possible, was very desirable. Speaking on behalf of the body which he represented, Mr. Sweeny said that they did not consider there was any necessity for any such action as proclaiming a moratorium. It would be of no great advantage to those who could pay and would not be of much protection to those who could not, and he did not think there would be many cases in the Province where the pound of flesh would be insisted upon from those who, owing to circumstances over which they had no control, would be unable to meet their liabilities for the moment. There would be very few people, he thought, who would want to take such steps to recover their money.

He desired to say a word or two as to the attitude of the banking fraternity at this time. The impression seemed to have gained hold in several quarters that the banks were acting in a spirit of antagonism towards the community. He could hardly understand this, as there was no such intention on the part of the banks, or of trying to "squeeze" their customers, as one of the speakers had said. Mr. Sweeny wished it to be clearly understood that for legitimate business there would be the same credits allowed by the banks as immediately preceding the outbreak of war. The money available for speculation would be restricted, and new ventures would have to be scanned very critically.

Mr. Sweeny went on to point out that the banking authorities had, for some years past, been trying to curtail all needless extravagance. He referred to the injury likely to be caused the country by careless speculation, and how the banks had realized this and had endeavored to encourage economy in every direction, so that in the event of the need arising, such as had now arisen through the European war, we would be in a position to meet the situation as it should be met.

The banks were not spending their own money, but had a large amount in their hands which was borrowed on call, and if they pursued a policy of being too easy with these funds, they would not be in a position to meet any emergency that might arise. So long as the banks were able to remain sound and thus keep up the public confidence, they were probably doing a greater service at a time like this, than if they were to advance money with a free hand to all who asked for it.

He concluded with the hope that he had in some measure dissipated the misapprehension that appeared to exist in the minds of some of those present, men who held important positions in the community, and who were careful and thinking men.

Other speakers were the president of the B. C. Manufacturers' Association, Victoria; Mr. Shaw, of the Nanaimo Board of Trade; and Mr. Taylor, of the Vancouver World.

In closing the conference, the Premier thanked the gentlemen who had accepted his invitation and given the Government the benefit of their advice. It was not a time to say much about the war, its causes or its probable issues. On one thing there was absolute unanimity, namely, that it would have to be fought out to a finish, and that those who could not go to the front had a duty to discharge at home not less sacred or less important than that which fell upon those who went to the front. It was to keep the wheels of commerce turning, to keep business going, to insure, as far as possible, employment for the people, and to minimize what, under the most favorable circumstances, must be regarded as the evils of war.

Irrigation Convention at Penticton

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"Time will not permit of reference to those, other than to state that, with those basic principles that make administration of water for irrigation possible, they are the reply of the Government to the resolutions passed at previous conventions of this association held in British Columbia."

C. E. Whistler, managing editor of the Pacific Fruit and Produce Distributor, spoke on the care and culture of apples and other fruits, in a range of subjects that dealt with the subject from blossoming time to the period during which the fruit went to market.

The individual who was called the jobber, was the subject of a scathing denunciation from Mr. Whistler, who pointed out that he presumed such men were no more honest in Canada than in the States. It was a common practice on the part of the jobber, he declared, to report that fruit shipped to them had arrived in bad condition, and consequently the price agreed upon was considerably cut. It was impossible to be in the fruit business without a complete check on the shipments at the consignee's end of the line. It would be found that if he reported "bad condition" cases were traced to their sources, it would be found that at least two-thirds were without foundation.

The next convention was voted to be held at Bassano, Alberta.

TWO SERMONS.

The man behind the European gun and the man behind the order book are the men of the present. You cannot be both.

If every Canadian will get down to business, business will get down to every Canadian.—Monetary Times.

NEW VANCOUVER SEWERS AUTHORIZED.

The Board of Works, Vancouver, has sanctioned the construction of sewers to cost \$46,850. Also, subject to approval by the Joint Sewerage Board, the Board of Works has sanctioned the construction of a sewer on Alma Road to cost \$15,000. Sewers in Ward VIII., costing \$24,750, were authorized to be constructed.

GRANBY DEFERS ACTION ON DIVIDEND.

Directors of the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Company, Limited, deferred action on the regular quarterly dividend of 1½%. The company has paid dividends at the rate of 6% per annum since March, 1913. The European crisis is responsible for the action. The company's plant at Grand Forks is closed, while that at Anyox is still in operation.